




ULVERSTON  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1960



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ULVERSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1960

Town Hall,

Ulverston.

July, 1961.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Ulverston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1960.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	3,196
Population - Census 1951	10,076
- Registrar General's Estimate of home population mid 1960	10,400
Number of inhabited houses	3,322
Rateable Value	£118,068
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£459.963

Although a large part of the district is rural in character a variety of industries are carried on in the town, the chief of which are tanning, manufacture of antibiotics and other pharmaceuticals, electrical accessories, light engineering and clothing manufacture. Agriculture plays a large part in the life of the community and a cattle market is held weekly. Ulverston is also the market town for the surrounding countryside and a public market is held once a week.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for 1960 and for the preceding five years are given on page 2.

Of the 162 births registered during 1960, 83 were males and 79 were females of which 2 were illegitimate.

Approximately 63% of deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over. The principal causes of death were:- Heart disease 57, Vascular lesions of nervous system 33 and Malignant growths 33. Of the 57 deaths from Heart disease, 37 were due to Coronary Artery disease.



Year.	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.
1960	162	x15.6	159	x15.3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	6.2	1	6.2
1959	142	13.6	158	15.2	1	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1958	139	13.4	157	15.1	1	7	Nil	Nil	3	21.6	2	14.4
1957	150	14.4	112	16.8	8	51	1	6.33	1	7	1	7
1956	158	15.3	131	12.6	4	25	Nil	Nil	6	38	6	38
1955	142	13.8	110	10.7	1	7	Nil	Nil	1	7	1	7
Average 5 years- 1955-59	-	14.1	-	12.9	-	19	-	1.27	-	14.7	-	13.3

x Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor 1.01) = 15.7 per 1,000  
x Adjusted death rate (comparability factor, 0.83) = 12.7 per 1,000.

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales and this District.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year	<u>England and Wales</u>		<u>Ulverston Urban District</u>	
	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1960	17.1	11.5	15.7	12.7
1959	16.5	11.6	13.8	12.7
1958	16.4	11.7	13.5	13.6
1957	16.1	11.5	14.5	10.0
1956	15.6	11.7	15.6	11.8

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:-

J.L. WILD. M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health -  
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District.  
Grange-over-Sands Urban District.  
North Lonsdale Rural District.  
  
Divisional Medical Officer -  
Health Division No. 1 -  
Lancashire County Council.

Public Health Inspector:-

J.K. YATES, Joint Board Certificate, R.S.I.  
Meat and Other Foods.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

### WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied by Barrow Corporation from Pennington Reservoir to the Ulverston Urban District Councils water works at Castle Hill, Pennington. Here the water is sand filtered before storage in a service reservoir of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million gallons capacity. Before passing into the trunk main for distribution the water is subjected to chlorination.

The supply was satisfactory in quantity during the year.

Eight bacteriological examinations and one chemical analysis of the public water supply were made and all were satisfactory. Three bacteriological examinations were made of untreated private supplies, one of which proved unsatisfactory.

During the year 49 new houses were connected to the public mains and at the end of the year 3,243 houses were supplied direct to the houses. 7 were supplied by standpipes and 11 from private supplies.

### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The sewage is screened and disintegrated, then stored and discharged out to sea only on an ebb tide, but storm water overflow is pumped out to sea at any state of the tide. All operations are automatic.

At 31st December, 1960 there were approximately 3,264 houses on the water carriage system with approximately 5,050 fresh water closets.



HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

	<u>Houses.</u>	<u>Flats.</u>
(a) By the local authority	27	Nil
(b) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(c) By other bodies or persons	22	Nil

1. Inspections of dwelling houses during the year:-

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	78
(b)	Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose	183
(c)	Number of dwelling houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	23
(2)	Total number of dwelling houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit	94

2. Houses Demolished.

<u>Houses Demolished.</u>	<u>Houses Demolished.</u>	<u>Displaced during year</u>	
		<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families.</u>
In Clearance Areas:			
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	12	9	1
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not in Clearance Areas:			
(4) As a result of informal procedure under Section 17(1), Housing Act. 1957	5	Nil	Nil
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	18	21	8
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts.	Nil	Nil	Nil
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	Nil	Nil	Nil

3. Unfit Houses Closed.

<u>Houses Closed.</u>		<u>Displaced during year</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
(1)	Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957	18	5
(2)	Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil
(3)	Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil

4.	<u>Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied:-</u>	<u>By Owner.</u>	<u>By Local Authority.</u>
	(1) After informal action by local authority	19	Nil
	(2) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts	2	Nil
	(b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil
	(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil
5.	<u>Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):-</u>		Nil
6.	<u>Houses in Clearance Areas Purchased by Agreement:-</u>		Nil
7.	<u>Housing Act, 1949 and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 - Improvement Grants etc.</u>	<u>No. of Schemes.</u>	<u>No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected</u>
	Action during the year:		
	(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	5	5
	(b) Approved by local authority	5	5
	(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil
	(d) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	Nil
	(e) Work completed	5	5
	(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above	Nil	Nil
8.	<u>House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, Standard Grants.</u>		<u>No. of dwellings or other buildings affected</u>
	Action during year:		
	(a) Applications submitted to local authority		29
	(b) Applications approved by local authority		29
	(c) Work completed		26

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Information regarding the inspection of meat, shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the report of the Public Health Inspector, as also are particulars of registration under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-54 and the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc) Regulations, 1947-52.

There was one case of food poisoning reported during the year. Unfortunately there was considerable delay before the case was notified so that reliable information was largely unobtainable, but it was almost certain that the food concerned was obtained at a hotel outside the District.



INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Notifications.

Disease	Number of cases in year					1960		
	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	Number of Cases	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet fever	7	1	0	2	1	2	0	0
Measles	46	5	30	337	139	89	0	0
Whooping cough	4	7	10	10	1	3	0	0
Poliomyelitis	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	0	1	11	0	4	0	0
Para-typhoid fever	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Meningococcal infection	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1
Food poisoning	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	0
TOTALS	63	13	48	360	142	100	1	1

The outbreak of measles occurred during the 4th quarter of the year.

Jaundice.

Specially noteworthy during the year has been an outbreak of infective hepatitis (epidemic jaundice), which affected particularly primary school children during the summer term.

Tuberculosis.

Three respiratory cases of tuberculosis were reported in a male aged 55 years and two females 76 and 36 years respectively.

The table below shows the number of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Ulverston Urban District residents during the past 12 years.

Years.	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1949	1	4	2	0	1	1	0	0
1950	3	6	3	0	2	3	0	0
1951	5	5	0	3	1	0	0	1
1952	2	8	1	0	0	0	0	0
1953	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1954	6	7	1	0	1	1	0	0
1955	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1956	4	4	2	0	1	1	0	0
1957	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1958	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
1959	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
1960	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

1.	Premises	Number on Register.	Number of		
			Inspections	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
	Factories in which Sections 1,2,3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	7	-	-
	Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	69	58	3	-
	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	2	3	-	-
2.	Cases in which defects were found:-			Referred	
	Particulars	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.
	Want of cleanliness (S1)	3	3	-	1
	Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-
	Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-
	Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-
	Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-
	Sanitary Conveniences (S7)				
	(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
	(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	2	-	3
	(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
	Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above mentioned Acts during the year.

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The report of the Public Health Inspector is appended.

In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Ulverston Urban District Council, particularly the Public Health Inspector for their unfailing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J.L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.



REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1960.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Ulverston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Previous Annual Reports have drawn attention to the unsatisfactory premises which have been used by the Ministry of Food, and latterly by the Council as a slaughterhouse. It is, therefore, with pleasure that I can report that the new Public Slaughterhouse, opened in March 1960 fulfils all that is required both in the production of clean and wholesome meat in hygienic and modern premises and at a reasonable economical cost. The "through put" during the first nine months increased by 75% due to the measure of support given by local butchers and butchers from the surrounding districts - amply justifying the progressive step taken by the Council.

The lay-out and comparatively low building and equipping costs have aroused considerable interest and at least 40 different Authorities and Meat Trading organisations have been to make inspections and enquiries.

Due to force of circumstances shortly after opening slaughtermen had to be engaged by the Council in order to ensure smooth running of the whole project and this arrangement appears to have worked out satisfactorily to all concerned. The system does not prohibit the slaughterhouse being used by any licenced slaughterman but has shown that fewer butchers are now prepared to do their own slaughtering when this alternative is present.

The total number of animals killed and inspected was 6,008 as against 5,094 in 1959. The number of pigs increased by 716 and is very largely due to the installation of mechanical de-hairers which obviates much of the hard work previously entailed in this work.

Tuberculosis was not found in any cattle and has virtually been eradicated in this area from this type of animal. There was one isolated instance of this disease found in a pig but investigations failed to reveal any useful information. Little other disease conditions were found as the table on the following page shows. Cows were the chief animals affected but even here the infection was of a localised nature not requiring total condemnation. Cysticercus Bovis (the cystic form of human tape-worm) has also diminished and control of this could be due to the national systematic form of meat inspection carried out whereby the life cycle is broken. In general, better liason between the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Veterinary Inspectors, improved farming and beef production, and modern premises have together brought about a healthier animal for turning into clean meat under hygienic conditions.



Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	845	129	144	3556	1334
Number inspected	845	129	144	3556	1334
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.</u>					
Whole carcases condemned.....	-	-	5	10	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	29	14	4	12	7
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and cysticercosis..	3.4%	10.9%	6.2%	0.6%	0.8%
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcases condemned.....	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	-	-	-	-	1
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis.....	-	-	-	-	0.08%
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	1	1	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.....	1	1	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

HOUSING.

Slum clearance made little progress during 1960 as the table on page five will show. The first five-year slum clearance proposals, now concluded, still requires the demolition of 38 houses already closed and a further 39 houses for dealing with under the Housing Act. To these must now be added other properties which have since or will in the very near future, become unfit for habitation and require re-housing of the families and subsequent demolition of the houses. The question of future development coupled with the necessity of having to acquire the land in clearance areas, and the limited number of new houses available have all helped to retard progress. It is also obvious that slum clearance on any large scale is going to be a costly venture but one of the most important aspects of Public Health and one in which the Council can only consider essential to the future well being of the town and its citizens.

12 houses comprising the property in Dye House Yard Clearance Area were demolished and the site since redeveloped for warehouse buildings so as to improve an area where in previous years other property has been demolished and the sites redeveloped on similar lines.

Numbers 1,2,3 and 4 Low Mill Cottages and Canal Side Bungalow have also been demolished and altogether 14 families comprising 48 persons have been re-housed from these and other properties. All the 40 M.A.P. bungalow occupants have now been re-housed and the majority of bungalows demolished so that redevelopment of the site for old people's bungalows can now proceed.



The number of Standard Grants for improvement of houses increased from 12 in 1959 to 29 in 1960 but Discretionary Grants fell from 15 to 5 in the same period. Once again they were mainly in respect of owner-occupied houses. Some of these properties could have been included in future slum clearance but the improvements have given them a new lease of life capable of providing satisfactory housing with modern amenities. New legislation giving Local Authorities reasonable powers to enforce improvements at the same time as defects are remedied could do much to preserve houses and give a better standard of living to a great many tenants.

21 houses were made fit or had defects remedied after serving formal or informal notices under the Housing or Public Health Act and some 78 houses were inspected formally or informally for housing defects. Some delay is being experienced in carrying out works of repair, mainly due to builders and contractors being actively engaged in other work.

#### Food Shops and Premises.

Besides the 100% meat inspection carried out at the Public Slaughterhouse periodical inspection of other food premises resulted in the condemnation (by voluntary surrender) of the following:-

22 tins of fruit	-	38 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
43 tins of frozen meat-		258 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
23 tins of vegetables -		28 lbs.
119 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs., of fish.		

During the year 174 inspections were made of the various food shops and in nine instances warning letters were sent or notices given, where minor infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations were found. In all cases the defects were remedied without delay and formal action was not required. Considerable improvements have been carried out to a number of shops either at the proprietor's instigation or as a result of discussion. These have included new food preparing rooms, tiling and modernising existing rooms and complete alterations to existing lay-outs. There are, unfortunately, still a few businesses operating from very old premises which could benefit all by a thorough renovating.

Improvements made in previous years at some of the licenced premises were almost concluded and included the provision of new sanitary conveniences, bar sinks and adequate and hygienic cellars.

Visits were made periodically to houses registered for picking shrimps and no cause for complaint was found. As this work takes place at different times, and spasmodically, it is not always possible to make an inspection during the actual picking operation.

Informal sampling of water supplies, ice cream, milk, shrimps and mussels was carried out approximately once a month and the general results were satisfactory. The public water supply continued to be "highly satisfactory" in quality when analysed and two private supplies were satisfactory.

29 samples of milk, as sold for retail consumption, were submitted for analysis for the presence of Brucella, Tuberculosis and also for cleanliness. All were reported negative to the two tests but several samples failed to conform to the standard laid down for the particular type of milk. These were reported to the Milk Production Officer for investigation and necessary action and systematic sampling is now taking place to ensure that the required standard is maintained.

Miscellaneous Inspections.

650 inspections and re-inspections of dwelling houses, 1,049 businesses and other premises and 72 agricultural properties have been carried out for detection and treatment of rat and mouse infestations. Altogether some 301 properties were infested but only to a minor degree, and these required a total of 880 treatments for the eradication of the vermin. The policy is still to arrange for work to be carried out on a contract basis wherever possible so that the fullest measure of control may be obtained by periodical inspections and action. The sewerage system was tested on two occasions for the presence of rats and very little infestation was found, and the Council refuse tip inspected at least once per month and necessary action whenever required.

9 council owned houses and 2 other houses were disinfested for other vermin. The main cause was ants gaining access to kitchen and living rooms and to a lesser degree cockroaches in some of the older buildings. Three houses were found to have bugs and necessitated more drastic action which included in one case the destruction by burning of a quantity of heavily infested bedding and old beds.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. K. YATES.

Public Health Inspector.





